

Nunes hails passage of endangered species reform

Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Tulare, hailed the passage of the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act (TERSA), which reforms and improves the decades-long ineffectiveness of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

“Any program that has a success rate of less than 1% needs to be reevaluated, and I believe that TESRA takes the necessary and proper steps to remedy these inadequacies,” Rep. Nunes said. “When children are not allowed to fly kites on the beach due to the possibility that a bird might live in the area, one can clearly see that the outdated ESA has deviated from its original intent.”

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) was passed by Congress in 1973 with the intent to protect and preserve species that have been identified as threatened or endangered. Over the past 30 years, more than 1,250 domestic species have been listed for protection; however less than one percent of these species have actually been “recovered.” Not only has ESA fallen well short of its goals, its misguided implementation has left many farmers, ranchers, and small businesses just as endangered. When plans for U.C. Merced, the only University of California campus in the San Joaquin Valley, were delayed because of fairy shrimp, one could clearly see that the outdated ESA had deviated from its original intent. Furthermore, when environmentalists place microscopic organisms above the needs of farmers, on whom we depend for our food,



Rep. Devin Nunes supports an effort in Congress to update the Endangered Species Act. After 30 years on the books, the law has failed to achieve its goals and a new approach is needed.

something has gone terribly wrong.

The protection of species needs to take into account all information, including peer-reviewed science and the additional social and economic impacts on our communities involved as such.

“Congress should update and modernize the ESA to strengthen its results for species recovery by turning conflict into cooperation. The Threatened and Endangered Species and Recovery Act does just that, and for this reason I supported it,” Nunes said.

H.R. 3824 will begin to solve the long-standing problems of species recovery by creating recovery teams and requiring recovery plans within two years of listing. These plans will require the identification of lands important to the conservation and recovery of spe-

cies. In addition, this legislation will not only strengthen scientific standards, but will also create bigger roles for state and local governments to get involved, relieving some of the burdens placed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The endangered species reform law will restore sound science to the species and critical habitat designation processes and reduce the burden on landowners who have their property restricted for conservation purposes.

Specifically, the bill strengthens scientific standards, reduces bureaucratic red tape, and justly compensates private property owners who have had their land confiscated or rendered useless under the ESA passed 30 years ago.